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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon*, Mali and Togo: revised draft resolution

Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 43/78 H and 43/85 of 7 December 1988, 44/21 of 15 November 1989, 45/58 M of 4 December 1990, 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, 47/53 F of 15 December 1992, 48/76 A of 16 December 1993, 49/76 C of 15 December 1994, 50/71 B of 12 December 1995, 51/46 C of 10 December 1996 and 52/39 B of 9 December 1997,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned, and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional stability and to international security,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

* On behalf of the States Members which are also members of the Economic Community of Central African States.

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Recalling the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Convinced also that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa[1] and the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa,[2]

Bearing in mind resolutions 1196 (1998) and 1197 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998 respectively, following its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity for conflict prevention and peacekeeping in Africa,

Recalling the decision of the fourth meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee in favour of establishing, under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures,[3] which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 52/39 B of 9 December 1997;

2. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in the subregion and to further peace, stability and sustainable development in Central Africa;

3. *Also reaffirms its support* for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee, held at Yaoundé in July 1992;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made by the countries members of the Committee in implementing the programme of activities for the period 1998–1999, in particular by:

(a) Holding a joint meeting of ministers of defence and of the interior in Libreville, Gabon, from 28 to 30 April 1998, on questions of security in Central Africa;

(b) Organizing the Subregional Conference on Democratic Institutions and Peace in Central Africa, in Bata, Equatorial Guinea, from 18 to 21 May 1998;

(c) Holding a Seminar on the Training of Trainers in Practical Disarmament Measures for the Consolidation of Peace for Senior Military and Civilian Officials, from 27 to 31 July 1998 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

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[1] A/50/474, annex I.

[2] A/53/258, annex II.

[3] A/53/369.

5. Emphasizes the importance of providing to the countries members of the Committee the essential support they need to carry out the full programme of activities which they adopted at the ninth and tenth ministerial meetings, in particular the organization of joint military exercises to simulate peacekeeping operations;

6. Welcomes the decision of the countries members of the Committee to convene as soon as possible a summit meeting of heads of State and Government with a view to establishing a Higher Council for the promotion of peace, the prevention, management and settlement of political crises and armed conflicts in Central Africa and a subregional parliament in Central Africa;

7. Welcomes with satisfaction the establishment of an early warning mechanism in Central Africa which will serve, on the one hand, as an instrument for analysing and monitoring political situations in the countries members of the Committee with a view to preventing the outbreak of future armed conflicts, and, on the other hand, as a technical body through which the member countries will carry out the work programme of the Committee, adopted at its organizational meeting in 1992 in Yaoundé;

8. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to lend their support for the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1197 (1998), to provide the necessary support to the countries members of the Committee in making operational the early warning mechanism which they have just established;

10. *Thanks* the Secretary-General for having established the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

11. *Appeals* to Member States and to governmental and non-governmental organizations to make additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular the activities referred to in paragraphs 5 and 7 above;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".